

Abraham Lincoln Quotations & Sayings

Spurious

"All that Harms Labor is Treason"

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

From the files of the Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection GENERAL OFFICE SCHENECTADY, N. Y.

1 River Road SCHENECTADY, N. Y. September 1, 1942

Dr. Louis A. Warren, Editor LINCOLN LORE Lincoln National Life Insurance Co. Fort Wayne, Indiana

My dear Dr. Warren:

I am writing to you at the suggestion of Dr. Joseph Jackson of Brown University Library, to whom we applied the other day to try to help us locate a statement attributed to Abraham Lincoln. We have made a fairly thorough search of a great many books on Lincoln's writings, without success, and Dr. Jackson also spent some time on the material in the McLellan Collection in his library. The quotation has to do with an alleged statement of Lincoln's on the subject of capital and labor, and among other things Dr. Jackson suggested that we consult your publication LINCOLN LORE No. 432, since this dealt entirely withcapital and labor. We have just borrowed this issue from our State Library, and, as Dr. Jackson stated, the quotation we seek is not included thereon.

Thinking that you may possibly have other references which you did not include in No. 432, I am taking the liberty of writing you to solicit your assistance and advice. After having made page-by-page searches of such books as Stern, Hertz, Barton, Sandburg ("The War Years"), Seitz, as well as the many quotation books, we are beginning to think that the quotation has been attributed to Lincoln erroneously. The quotation is:

"All that harms labor is treason to America.
No line can be drawn between these two. If any man tells you he loves America yet hates labor, he is a liar. If any man tells you he trusts America yet he fears labor, he is a fool. There is no America without labor, and to fleece the one is to rob the other."

Without putting you to any great trouble, I would appreciate it if you could tell me whether you recognize

Dr. Louis A. Warren

-2-

September 1, 1942

the above as a statement of Lincoln's. If you do, could you give us some idea of what occasion it was used? We are particularly interested in the context--what preceded the above and what followed it. Even if you do not happen to recognize it, may I have a word from you to that effect?

Please be assured, Dr. Warren, that we will greatly appreciate your advice and cooperation.

Yours very truly,

LIBRARIAN, MAIN LIBRARY

WF Jacob: IHE

September 9, 1942

Mr. W.F. Jacob, Librarian
General Electric Co.
1 River Rd.
Schenectady, N.Y.

My dear Mr. Jacob:

Your letter of inquiry about the quotation "All that harms labor is treason to America, etc." has been given careful consideration although it seems quite apparent from the first reading of the quotation that it was not the language of Abraham Lincoln.

I think you may be safe in assuming that Lincoln never used such language as was used in the quotation. Furthermore we do not think that he ever indulged to any extent in calling people liars and fools. He just didn't talk that way.

We can find no passage that even parallels the contents of the alleged quotation.

Very truly yours.

LAW: EB

Director

GENERAL OFFICE SCHENECTADY, N. Y.

1 River Road SCHENECTADY, N. Y.

September 14, 1942

Dr. Louis A. Warren, Director Lincoln National Life Foundation Fort Wayne. Indiana

My dear Dr. Warren:

We are indeed grateful to you for the results of your checking and for your authoritative opinion, as expressed in your letter of September 9, regarding the alleged quotation from Abraham Lincoln referred to in my letter of September 1. I was particularly pleased by your statement that you didn't believe that he ever indulged to any extent in calling people liars and fools. This is just the same reaction that several of us here had when the alleged quotation was first brought to our attention. It may interest you to know that we made a similar inquiry to several other people who are authorities on Abraham Lincoln, and all concerned seemed to check that this probably was a statement that has been erroneously attributed to Lincoln by someone. After receiving your letter we are now firmly convinced and shall not carry our research any further.

We sincerely hope we haven't put you to too much trouble, and if at any time we can reciprocate, please do not hesitate to call on us.

Yours very truly,

LIBRARIAN, MAIN LIBRARY

WF Jacob: IHE

EDWARD C. STONE 110 MILK STREET, BOSTON, U. S.A. THE EMPLOYERS' GROUP September 30, 1942 Dr. Louis A. Warren Lincoln National Life roundation Fort Mayne, Indiana Dear Mr. Larren: Doubtless you have seen in American Notes & Queries, "A Journal for the Curious," in its October 1942 number on page 101 the article which I quote in full: "Lincoln on Labor." "Lincoln during the first week of October, 1854 made a speech in Springfield, Illinois, which he delivered again some two weeks later at leoria. The text of the 'Peoria speech' is, of course, well known. However, the Country Farson (Gainsboro, Georgia) attributes to the Springfield Address the following: ('All that serves labor serves the Nation. All that harms labor is treason to America. No line can be drawn between these two. If any man tells you he loves *merica, yet hates labor, he is a lisr. If any man tells you he trusts America, yet fears labor, he is a fool. There is no America with ut labor, and to fleece the one is to rob the other. This, according to the Georgia paper was said on October 1, 1854 but it does not appear in the text of the 'Feoria speech.' Has this date been verified? And does this excerpt appear in any collection of Lincoln's speeches?" The person making the inquiry is George Seldes. I should be curious to know what answer you could give to these questions. with the kindest personal regards, I am Yours very truly,

T.D. I am wondering if you can give me the names of my rersons of importance in either political or literary circles who ware close friends of the late. The Head of the late of th who were close friends of the late John Hay. I am pursuing an interesting inquiry along these lines in connection with my research as to the authorship of the Bixby letter. All I want are just suggestions of names I shall be very glad myself to follow up and how intimate they were.

October 9, 1942

Mr. Edward C. Stone 110 Milk St. Boston, Mass.

My dear Mr. Stone:

I regret the delay in answering your letter of September 30 but I have been making some extra effort to try and find the quotation with reference to Lincoln and labor which appears to have received some general publicity.

I have before me a letter from the General Electric at Schenectady setting forth the same theory and I copy paragraph from my reply to them which I think gives you my reaction toward your question. This is it: I think you may be safe in assuming that Lincoln never used such language as was used in the quotation. Furthermore we do not think that he ever indulged to any extent in calling people liars and fools. He just didn't talk that way." We have not been ale to find any passage that even parallels this statement or even carries the idea stated in such harsh and unguildness terms.

with reference to John Hay I think possibly the members
of his cabinet both McKinley and Roosevelt would be rather closely
associated with him and it might be worth while to contact those
who may be living or check up the papers of those whose manuscripts
have been preserved.

Here is a list that might be worth keeping in mind.

John D. Long of Massachusetts, Lyman J. Gage of Illinois, Lester M.

Shaw of Iowa, Elihu Root of New York, James Wilson of Iowa,

Charles Emory Smith of Pennsylvania, Philander Knox of Philadelphia,

Pennsylvania, Charles W. Fairbanks of Ohio,

A. Hitchcock

of Missouri.

It happens that I am preparing a Lincoln Lore right now on John Hay placing emphasis, however, upon biographical facts relating to him. I do not know if this will be of much help to you but I may come across other names as this Lincoln Lore develops.

I am delighted to know that you are still carrying on with the Bixby letter problem.

Very truly yours,

A.F. Whitney,

S. R. Harrey,

Issistant president

Grand Ladyo

G.W.Anderson, generalscereturyandsreasuren

Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen

In reply refer to File No.

General Offices. Cleveland, Chie,



March 11, 1943

Dr. Louis A. Warren Editor, Lincoln Lore Fort Wayne, Indiana

Dear Sir:

I am having some difficulty tracing the source of a quotation which I have been given to believe was uttered by Lincoln. Knowing your interest in Lincoln I wonder if perhaps you may have seen the quotation or words to which I refer:

All that serves labor serves the nation. All that harms labor is treason to America. No line can be drawn between these two. If any man tells you he loves America yet hates labor, he is a liar. If any man tells you he trusts America yet fears labor, he is a fool. There is no America without labor.

Any information you have regarding this matter will be greatly appreciated. Among those who have used this quotation one or two refer to the source as a speech given by Lincoln on October 1, 1854 at Springfield. I am unable to find it there.

Sincerely yours,

Librarian

- v March 15, 1943 Lucille Giguere, Librarian Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen General Offices Cleveland, Ohio My doar Madam: While I am very certain that Abraham Lincoln was very sympathetic with labor and its ideals, I am equally positive that he never made a statement such as the quotation which you submitted in your letter of March 11. This statement has often been called to our attention within the past few months and as far as I am able to learn Lincoln never did use any such language. In fact I doubt if he ever called anyone "a liar" in his life, especially in any general statement such as the one submitted, October 1, 1854 came on a Sunday and I believe that fact would make it less probable that Lincoln would use the term in any speech he may have made on a Sunday, especially with the significance given to the observation of the old fashioned Sunday. We would be happy indeed to learn of any other source which might be helpful in learning the origin of this quotation. Very truly yours, LAW: WM Director

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LIBRARY OF JEWISH INFORMATION

August 13, 1943.

Dea Sir:

The Reference librarian at the New York Public library suggested that your office might be able to locate the origin of a Lincoln quotation which we are having some difficulty in placing.

I am enclosing the quotation in question, and hope that you will be able to let us have, or refer us to the complete text of the sppeech or letter from which it comes. I believe it is dated at about 1854.

Since we are hoping to use this quotation in connection with some material which we are preparing for Labor Day, I am enclosing an air-mal stamped envelepe, and hope you can let us hear from you shortly.

Thank you again for any assistance you may offer.

Sonya Kaufer

Secretary, Lincoln National Foundation Lincoln Life Insurance Company Building Fort Wayne, Indiana

"...All that helps labor helps the nation; all that harms labor is treason to America. If any man tells you that he loves America, yet hates labor, he is a liar. If any man tells you that he trusts America, yet fears labor, he is a fool. There can be no America without labor...."

August 19, 1943

Mrs. Sonya Kaufer Library of Jewish Information 15th Floor, 386 Fourth Avenue New York, N. Y.

My dear Madam:

There have been several requests come to us during the past few months with respect to the identification of the quotation about Labor alleged to have been made by Abraham Lincoln.

One source claims that the speech was delivered on October 1, 1954 in Springfield. This came on a Sunday and we are quite sure that Lincoln did not make a political address on that day.

statement which has been credited to him.

The very language itself makes me feel that Lincoln never used the expression; in other words, he did not use expressions which referred to people as liars and fools. The whole statement anything but the language of Lincoln. While he may have and did have very high regards for Labor I do not think he made the

Enclosed you will please find a bulletin containing several quotations which Lincoln did use and the time and place where these quotations were used can be submitted if you care to use any of them.

Very truly yours,

LAW: WM

Director

Bulletin of the Lincoln National Life Foundation Bulletin of the Lincoln National Life Foundation - - - - Dr. Louis A. Warren, Editor Published each week by The Lincoln National Life Insurance Company, Fort Wayne, Indiana

Number 750

FORT WAYNE, INDIANA

August 23, 1943

DID LINCOLN SAY IT?

One of the most certain proofs of the immortality of a man is the tendency to emphasize the importance of the epigrams he used. The anthology of Lincoln's pointed sayings, approaches in wisdom, the proverbs of Solomon, and they have contributed immeasurably to the fame of the prairie philosopher. It is not known, generally, that the writings and printed speeches of Abraham Lincoln, in total wordage exceed the complete works of Shakespeare.

Another element which confirms the eternal fame of a man is the tendency to put in his month, as it were, words presenting some certain philosophy of life which the ghost writer desires to advance. We are now in that stage of the Lincoln apotheosis when a great mass of spurious quotations are being credited to Lincoln which he never

recited.

The first Lincoln token which the editor of Lincoln Lore can remember receiving, and which he now cherishes with much satisfaction, is a motto post card sent to him while in college by his mother. This is the epigram on the card:

Success By Abraham Lincoln To a Young Man

"There is no success save it be self-wrought-Your employer will generally reward those who generously labor for him—Those who are kind, charitable and just will inspire a return of love and gratitude—It is a fact that 'Like begets like,' and that if we desire from our fellows the rewards of the world, sacrifices must be made, or we shall neither merit nor receive them." Copyrighted by R. L. Welles, 1907.

Apparently the quotation is spurious and while Lincoln's famous statement on the same subject-"Success does not so much depend on external help as on self reliance"-is quite familiar, the origin of the postal motto, if it be genuine, through all these years has remained unidentified.

There is still another classification of remarks credited to Abraham Lincoln which are nothing more or less than propaganda, and these appear periodically when any important political or social question is discussed. The latest contribution in this field is a quotation about Lincoln's attitude toward labor, which seems to have been coined for the present labor and management controversy.

From four widely separated sources there has come to the Foundation, queries about the authenticity of the following statement, alleged to have

been made by Abraham Lincoln.

"All that serves labor serves the Nation. All that harms labor is treason to America. No line can be drawn between these two. If any man tells you he loves America, yet hates labor, he is a liar. If any man tells you he trusts America, yet fears labor, he is a fool. There is no America without labor, and to fleece the one is to rob the other.

The earliest record of this quotation, thus far traced, appeared in The Country Parson, a Georgia paper and according to the contributor the words were spoken by Lincoln on October 1, 1854.

A query about the authenticity of this quotation was sent to American Notes and Queries, by George Seldes, in his memorandum appearing in the October 1842 issue of that publication.

The quotation is often found in an abbreviated form with these two sentences omitted, "No line can be drawn between these two," and the concluding phrase, "and to fleece the one is to rob the other." The word "helps," used twice in the first sentence, seems to be interchangeable with "serves."

October 1, 1854, came on a Sunday, and there is no record of any speech Lincoln made on that day. It is likely he was in Springfield or en route to Springfield from Metamora, Ill. The state fair was about to open in the capital city and on Tuesday Lincoln was in attendance.

While Lincoln held both labor and capital as invaluable to the American system, it is rather doubtful if he used such expressions as "liars" and "fools," in referring to classes or groups of

citizens.

While we are on the question of spurious Lincoln writings, perhaps some of the readers of Lincoln Lore would be willing to submit chapter and verse for the following alleged quotations by the Emancipator, all of which appear in print and some of them in conspicuous places.

"Teach economy. That is one of the first and highest virtues. It begins with saving money."

"The next fight will be between Capital and Labor, and Labor would have to carry the yoke."

"I don't know who my grandfather was, and I am much more concerned to know what his grandson will be."

"I believe a man should be proud of the city in which he lives, and that he should so live that his city will be proud that he lives in it.'

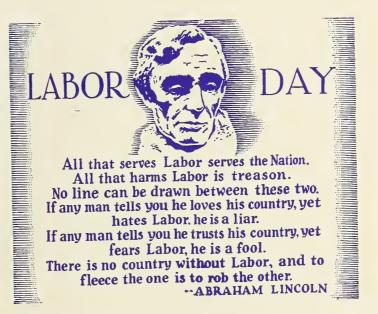
"If ever this free people—if this government itself is ever utterly demoralized, it will come from this incessant human wriggle and struggle for office, which is but a way to live without work."



MOUNTAIN LIFE & WORK

Louis Warren Lincoln Ins. Co.. Ft. Wayne, Ind.

Ex.



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SIGNED ARTICLES ARE NOT NECESSARILY THE EXPRESSION OF EDITORIAL OPINION NOR DO THEY CARRY THE ENDORSEMENT OF THE CONFERENCE.

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CINCINNATI, OHIO. DECEMBER 17, 1948

THE ABRAHAM LINCOLN ASSOCIATION SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS.

GENTLEMEN:

I HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO FIND LOCALLY A QUOTATION FROM ABRAHAM LINCOLN CONTAINING SOMEWHAT THE FOLLOWING LINES:

"ALL THAT HARMS LABOR IS TREASON TO AMERICA.
THERE IS NO AMERICA WITHOUT LABOR. HE WHO
SAYS HE TRUSTS AMERICA BUT FEARS LABOR, IS A
FOOL; HE WHO SAYS HE LOVES AMERICA, BUT HATES
LABOR, IS A LIAR."

I WILL VERY MUCH APPRECIATE IT IF YOU CAN GIVE ME THE SOURCE, AND/OR THE CORRECT VERSION OF THIS QUOTATION.

A SELF ADDRESSED ENVELOPE IS ENCLOSED FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE.

YOURS VERY TRULY

A. B. SPARK

December 21, 1948

Mr. A.B. Sparks 307 Hazen Building Winth and Main Streets Cincinnati, Ohio

My dear Mr. Sparks:

Attached to this letter you will please find a copy of Lincoln Lore with a discussion about the labor quotation you have presented.

Very truly yours,

LAW:EB

Director

COMPANY

GENERAL OFFICE SCHENECTADY, N. Y.

r River Road Schenectady 5, N. Y. October 31, 1949

Dr. Louis A. Warren, Director Lincoln National Life Foundation Fort Wayne, Indiana

My dear Dr. Warren:

Back in 1942 I had occasion to write you to see if your Foundation had any record of an alleged quotation made by Abraham Lincoln on the subject of labor which began with the sentence "All that harms labor is treason to America" etc. You replied to me on September 9, 1942 indicating that it seemed quite apparent that this extensive quotation was not the language of Abraham Lincoln. Also you stated in your letter that you could find no passage that even parallels the contents of the alleged quotation. Since your letter confirmed our inquiries to several other experts on Abraham Lincoln, we felt that the alleged quotation was spurious, and did not carry our investigation any further.

The same question has been put to us several times in the succeeding years, and our usual reply was that it was spurious and could not be located by organizations that had a much better knowledge of the subject than we could hope to have.

But -- yesterday's NEW YORK TIMES in its book review section includes an answer to a reader's question about the same identical quotation, and it surprised us to read in the answer that the Lincoln National Life Foundation publication "Lincoln Lore" No. 750 of August 23, 1943 seems to give more positive reference to when Lincoln was reputed to have made this statement.

If you still have copies of No. 750, could you spare one or two copies for me? I would also be interested in any comments you may have regarding it, because we feel certain that this matter will be put up to us again, as the Labor Union with which we deal is likely to refer to this Lincoln statement.

Dr. Louis A. Warren - 2 -

October 31, 1949

Regretting the need of bothering you again, and thanking you in advance for whatever you can send us, I am

Yours very truly,

Librarian, Main Library

Wm. F. Jacob:eir

November 4, 1949

Mr. William J. Jacob Librarian, Main Library General Electric Company 1 River Road Schenectady, New York

My dear Mr. Jacob:

You will please find attached a copy of Lincoln Lore No. 750 referred to by the New York Times containing our best information about the use of the spurious quotation "All that serves labor."

Very truly yours,

LAW/DPB L. A. Warren Enc. Director

GENERAL OFFICE SCHENECTADY, N. Y.

1 River Road Schenectady 5, N. Y.

November 7, 1949

Dr. Louis A. Warren, Director Lincoln National Life Foundation Fort Wayne, Indiana

My dear Dr. Warren:

Thank you indeed for your letter of November 4th, and for sending us not only a copy of LINCOLN LORE for August 23, 1943, but also the issue for August 29, 1949.

The impression we got from the reader's reply in the book review section of the New York Times was that the alleged quotation was beginning to have some semblance of fact, but I can see from LINCOLN LORE that you people still consider the quotation to be spurious.

We shall add your two copies to our file on this Lincoln quotation, because I am certain that we will be called upon again and again to confirm where Lincoln made such a statement.

Thanking you for your interest, and regretting having bothered you, I am

Yours very truly,

Librarian / Main Library

Wm. F. Jacob:eir

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Attention: Dr. Louis Warren.

Dear Doctor Warren:

AMK/rg

I am trying to determine whether or not the quotation given below was actually uttered by Abraham Lincoln. It has been attributed to him but I have been unable to locate it in any of the reference books in the local libraries. This is the quotation:

" ALL THAT HARMS LABOR IS TREASON TO AMERICA, NO LINE CAN BE DRAWN BETWEEN THESE TWO. IF ANY MAN TELLS YOU HE LOVES AMERICA, YET HE HATES LABOR, HE IS A LIAR. IF ANY MAN TELLS YOU HE TRUSTS AMERICA, YET FEARS LABOR, HE IS A FOOL. THERE IS NO AMERICA WITHOUT LABOR, AND TO FLEECE THE ONE IS TO ROB THE OTHER. "

I would like to know if Abraham Lincoln did say this, and if so, I would like to get a copy of the entire speech from which this quotation is taken and would also like to know where the speech was made and under what circumstances.

I was referred to you as being the final authority on anything pertaining to Abraham Lincoln and would greatly appreciate any information you can give me on this subject.

Yours very truly,

A. M. KIRKPATRICK

a.m. Krippatrik

March 2, 1956 Mr. A. M. Kirkpatrick Liberty Distributors Group 4300 North Fifth St. P.O. Box 95 Philadelphia 5, Pennsylvania My dear Mr. Kirkpatrick: You will please find attached a bulletin which I think will answer your query with respect to the quotation that you submitted in your recent letter. It is not surprising that these quotations appear as various organizations try to quote Lincoln to their own advantage. Very truly yours, Director LAW: WC enc.



